

EXPANDABLE COIL ENDOLUMINAL PROSTHESIS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A coiled stent (196) has a coiled stent body with a main body portion (106) and end portions (108). The end portions may be substantially less stiff than the body portion to help prevent tissue trauma. A graft material (124) may be used to cover at least the main body portion to create a coiled stent graft (122) in which adjacent turns (128) have gaps defined therebetween to create a generally helical gap (130). The coiled stent may have side elements (10) separated by connector elements (112) and be placeable in a contracted, reduced diameter state and in a relaxed, expanded diameter state. The connector elements are preferably generally parallel to the stent axis when placed in the contracted, reduced-diameter state, typically tightly wrapped around a placement catheter (136).